

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

The Requirement for Restriction

The Examiner has required restriction between claims of the following groups:

Invention Group I: Claims 1-8 and 17-23, drawn to a method of minimization of false-positive and false-negative results in the detection of small amounts of amniotic fluid in the vaginal secretions of pregnant women and a device;

Invention Group II: Claims 9-16, drawn to a method for detecting leaking amniotic fluid in vaginal secretions.

The Examiner states that in the instant application, unity of invention is lacking because more than one process of using a product (claims 1-8 and 9-16) is claimed along with the product (claims 17-23) used in each process. The Examiner states that the first and related inventions are considered the main invention (the Group I claims 1-8 and 17-23) and have unity of invention. The Examiner concludes that group II is a second process not part of the Group I invention.

Solely to be responsive to the requirement for restriction, the invention Group I, claims 1-8 and 17-23, drawn to a method of minimization of false-positive and false-negative results in the detection of small amounts of amniotic fluid in the vaginal secretions of pregnant women and a device, is elected for further prosecution.

CONCLUSION

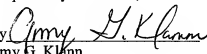
This election is made without prejudice. As noted by the Examiner, upon the allowance of a product claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of process claims written in dependent form or otherwise including all the limitations of an allowed product claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.104 *et seq.* Thus, Applicants reserve the right to request rejoinder of appropriate claims, or species in accordance with MPEP §821.04.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled and/or non-elected subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

If there are any other issues remaining, which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated: June 12, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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